

21 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : The Status of the UN General Assembly Debate

1. After two interruptions this week to give the Soviets more time to try to develop agreement on the text of a substantive resolution, the General Assembly is meeting again at 1500 today. Agreement on something more than a procedural resolution is possible but still unlikely. The US hopes that the special assembly will end today or, at the latest, tomorrow.

2. The Soviets, having asked for the special assembly session, are very reluctant--for reasons of face and their Arab interests--to have it terminate without adopting a major substantive resolution. Additionally, they may be worried that further conflict will occur unless Israel withdraws its forces. The Soviet ambassador [redacted]

[redacted] that the situation in the Suez Canal area was of great concern and that if the Israelis tried to cross the canal the Soviets would be directly involved. He said that the USSR was consequently eager to get effective UN action. He allegedly said that what is needed is a new and much larger UN Emergency Force, possibly of 17,000 men.

3. To gain a resolution incorporating withdrawal, the Soviets have become increasingly willing to make concessions to the Western position--although some of the alleged "compromises" they have offered have been totally unacceptable to the US. On the other hand, they will not back a compromise resolution in open debate unless they can carry the key

State Dept. review completed.

Arab states with them, and Algeria and Syria in particular have declined to compromise. The stumbling block has been Arab refusal to accept termination of a state of belligerency as one element of a settlement.

4. On 19 July Ambassador Goldberg and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko were able to work out two possible texts to get around the belligerency problem. They provide for the withdrawal of Israeli forces, acknowledgement of the right of all states in the area to maintain an independent national existence and to live in peace and security, and "renunciation of all claims and acts inconsistent therewith"--i.e., belligerency. They request the Security Council to continue examining the situation with a sense of urgency, working directly with the parties and utilizing a UN presence, to achieve a solution of all aspects of the problem, including the refugee question and freedom of transit through international waterways.

5. If the Soviets could obtain Arab agreement to such a resolution, it would probably be tabled today. If, as seems more probable, they cannot, the only likely assembly action would be on a procedural resolution sponsored by Austria, Finland, and Sweden. The exact text of this is still being negotiated, but it will probably recommend that the Security Council urgently resume its consideration of the problem, ask the secretary general to forward the records of the assembly to the Security Council, and state that the assembly would reconvene as and when necessary.

E. DREXEL GODFREY, JR.
Director of Current Intelligence

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